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AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device comprising a nematic liquid crystal, voltage means for applying a voltage across said liquid crystal, and two substrates each provided with an alignment layer, wherein:
said liquid crystal is sandwiched between said two substrates;
said nematic liquid crystal can be placed in at least one operating state and at least one non-operating state,
at least one of said alignment layers is provided with a plurality of surface protrusions formed from an anisotropic material, and
said protrusions have a height which is at least 10% of the thickness of the liquid crystal and affect alignment both near the surface and within the bulk of the liquid crystal,
wherein said liquid crystal is divided into a plurality of pixels each having an active region, and the active region of each said pixel ~~contains, or partially overlaps with, or lies adjacent or close to,~~ at least one of said protrusions, so that nucleation occurs within said active region.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said protrusions have a height which is at least 20% of the thickness of the liquid crystal.
4. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said protrusions have a height which is substantially 50% of the thickness of the liquid crystal.

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5. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of said protrusions nucleate said liquid crystal into said operating state from said non-operating state when said voltage exceeds a threshold value.

6. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of said protrusions isolate said operating state from said non-operating state or from another operating state.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said liquid crystal is divided into a plurality of pixels, and wherein each said pixel is surrounded by at least one of said protrusions, so that the pixel is isolated.

9. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nematic liquid crystal is a pi-cell.

10. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nematic liquid crystal is a negative pi-cell or splay bend device (SBD).

11. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nematic liquid crystal is a bistable twisted nematic (BTN).

12. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of said protrusions are twisted anisotropic protrusions.

13. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of said protrusions are tilted anisotropic protrusions.

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14. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of said protrusions are tilted and twisted anisotropic protrusions.

15. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed claim 1, wherein said anisotropic protrusions are formed from a polymerisable reactive mesogen.

16. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said operating and non-operating states are topologically distinct from each other.

17. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein when said voltage is substantially zero different regions of said liquid crystal exist in first and second non-operating states, and the first non-operating state is stabilised by said anisotropic protrusions.

18. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said first and second non-operating states are T and H states respectively.

19. (Original) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said first non-operating state is the same state as said operating state.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, said method comprising the steps of forming a reactive mesogen layer on one of said substrates, curing said layer by irradiating said layer through a mask to leave said one of said substrates coated with anisotropic protrusions, and forming a liquid crystal cell by sandwiching nematic liquid crystal material between said two substrates wherein said protrusions have a height which is at least 10% of the thickness of the liquid crystal.

21-23. (Canceled)

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24. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of said protrusions are trapezoidal anisotropic protrusions.

25. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of said protrusions are triangular anisotropic protrusions.

26. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of said protrusions are mitre-shaped anisotropic protrusions.